A cornerstone of Democracy is the open exchange of different opinions.  Citizens must have access to objective news accounts and information in order to make wise decisions about their government's policies and to maintain a balanced view of world politics.  A "Free Press" is integral to this.

The power of the press is staggering.  Misinformation, lies that are repeated become truths in the public's mind.  An example of this is that on the day that the U.S. declared war on Iraq, over 50% of Americans believed that Saddam Hussein was directly linked to the September 11 tragedy.  No concrete evidence was EVER produced, nor has it been.  But the power of the repeated allegations made by the Bush administration on the radio and airwaves convinced the American public that it was fact.

I am deeply concerned that the consolidation of the media will make it much more difficult for alternative voices and viewpoints to be heard.  The U.S. is supposed to have a "Free Press."  Many Americans believe it is, and are unaware of the large political and corporate interests that censor and disseminate "the news."  Thus they believe whatever shows up on the national airwaves.

Please support freedom of speech and information!  The future of our nation as a well-informed Democracy depends on it.

Sincerely,
Rachel Herbener